

House Resolution 1611

By: Representative Ralston of the 7th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and designating Gilmer County, Georgia, as the Mountain Biking Capital of
2 Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, as early as 1983, Gilmer County has been known as the "mecca" for mountain
4 biking, with over 400 miles of maintained trails that range from two to 50 miles in length
5 according to SORBA (Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association), with over 2,700 club
6 members, making up 24 chapters ranging from Florida to North Carolina; and

7 WHEREAS, the Ellijay Chapter of SORBA is one of the first two chapters of SORBA,
8 forming in 1997, and has successfully organized group rides, bike festivals, and mountain
9 bike racing in Ellijay since its inception; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1999, the *Southern Outdoor Recreation* magazine published an article
11 referring to Gilmer County as a "destination spot" for "mountain biking"; in the *Sports Afield*
12 magazine, March 2000 issue, it was written that Ellijay was number one of the top ten
13 mountain biking towns in the United States; and in the *Georgia Trend* magazine, January
14 2008 issue, the "mountain bike capital" appears in reference to Ellijay, Georgia; and

15 WHEREAS, the executive director of the Swamp Mountain Bike Club, with over 600
16 members, conservatively estimates that over the past 18 years \$200,000 has been spent in
17 Gilmer County on lodging, meals, gas, and groceries by their members traveling to Gilmer
18 County because of its trails; and

19 WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Carters Lake Office, fully supports a
20 resolution acknowledging Gilmer County as the "Mountain Biking Capital of Georgia," as
21 volunteers for Ellijay Mountain Biking Association have been dedicated in developing two
22 outstanding mountain bike trails on public land at Carters Lake and have hosted mountain
23 bike events annually over the past 15 years; and

1 WHEREAS, Carters Lake is home to over 500,000 visitors per year, many of whom are
2 mountain bikers coming from all over the United States to this area specifically because of
3 its reputation for outstanding mountain biking opportunities; and

4 WHEREAS, tourism is an integral part of Gilmer County's economy with tourists spending
5 over \$26 million in the county and mountain biking draws large numbers of outdoor
6 recreation enthusiasts nationwide because of the county's natural beauty and terrain that
7 offers challenges for all skill levels of bikers.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
9 the members of this body join together to recognize and designate Gilmer County as the
10 "Mountain Biking Capital of Georgia."

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
12 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Ellijay Mountain Biking
13 Association, the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association, the Swamp Mountain Bike Club,
14 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Carters Lake Office, the Gilmer County Chamber of
15 Commerce, and the Gilmer County Department of Economic Development.